

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

MM Docket No. 96-11

In the Matter of

Amendment of Section 73.606(b), RM-8742
Table of Allotments,
Television Broadcast Stations.
(Waverly, New York and Altoona,
Pennsylvania)

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING

Adopted: January 31, 1996; Released: February 13, 1996

Comment Date: April 5, 1996

Reply Comment Date: April 22, 1996

By the Chief, Allocations Branch:

1. The Commission has before it the petition for rule making filed by WSKG Public Telecommunications Council ("petitioner") requesting the allotment of UHF TV Channel 57 to Waverly, New York, and its reservation for noncommercial educational use, as the community's first local television transmission service. To accommodate the allotment at Waverly, petitioner also requests that the allotment reference coordinates for vacant and unapplied-for Channel *57 at Altoona, Pennsylvania, be modified. Petitioner states that it will apply for Channel *57, if allotted to Waverly.

2. Petitioner points out that Waverly has a 1990 U.S. Census population of 4,787 persons and its county, Tioga, has a population of 52,237 persons. Further, it submits that the Waverly station could provide a Grade B service to a population of over 475,930 persons. Petitioner contends that the allotment of the channel to Waverly will fulfill one of the Commission's highest priorities, that is, the provision of a first local service. Further, because Waverly only receives one noncommercial educational service, petitioner asserts that the allotment will also provide Waverly with its first competitive service.

Technical Summary

3. A staff engineering analysis confirms that Channel *57 can be allotted to Waverly in compliance with the Commission's minimum distance separation requirements with a site restriction of 7.6 kilometers (4.7 miles) north to avoid a short-spacing to Station WGBY-TV, Channel 57+, Springfield, MA, and Station CITY-TV, Channel 57, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. To accommodate the Waverly al-

lotment, we also propose to modify the allotment reference coordinates for vacant and unapplied-for Channel *57+ at Altoona, PA, to a site 16.2 kilometers (10.1 miles) southwest.¹ Since Waverly and Altoona are both located within 400 kilometers (250 miles) of the U.S.-Canadian border, concurrence of the Canadian Government will be obtained for these allotments.

4. The Commission has imposed a temporary freeze on new television allotments in certain metropolitan areas. Waverly is not affected by the freeze but Altoona lies within the freeze area of Pittsburgh, PA.² Therefore, even if the proposed change at Altoona is adopted, the freeze on applications will continue in force.

5. We believe petitioner's proposal warrants consideration since the allotment of Channel *57- to Waverly could provide the community with its first local television transmission service. Accordingly, we seek comments on the proposed amendment of the Television Table of Allotments, Section 73.606(b) of the Commission's Rules, for the community listed below, to read as follows:

City	Present	Channel No. Proposed
Waverly, New York	--	*57-

6. The Commission's authority to institute rule making proceedings, showings required, cut-off procedures, and filing requirements are contained in the attached Appendix and are incorporated by reference herein. In particular, we note that a showing of continuing interest is required by paragraph 2 of the Appendix before a channel will be allotted.

7. Interested parties may file comments on or before April 5, 1996, and reply comments on or before April 22, 1996, and are advised to read the Appendix for the proper procedures. Comments should be filed with the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554. Additionally, a copy of such comments should be served on the petitioner, or its counsel or consultant, as follows:

Richard D. Marks, Esq.
Margaret L. Miller, Esq.
Dow, Lohnes & Albertson
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Washington, D.C. 20037
(Counsel to petitioner)

8. The Commission has determined that the relevant provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to rule making proceedings to amend the Television Table of Allotments, Section 73.606(b) of the Commission's Rules. *See Certification That Sections 603 and 604 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act Do Not Apply to Rule Making to Amend Sections 73.202(b), 73.504 and 73.606(b) of the Commission's Rules*, 46 FR 11549, February 9, 1981.

¹ The coordinates for Channel *57- at Waverly are 42-04-33 North Latitude and 76-30-48 West Longitude. The coordinates for Channel *57+ at Altoona are 40-24-30; 78-31-30.

² See *Notice of Inquiry*, 2 FCC Rcd 2125 (1987) and *Order*, 52 FR 28346, July 29, 1987.

9. For further information concerning this proceeding, contact Leslie K. Shapiro, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180. For purposes of this restricted notice and comment rule making proceeding, members of the public are advised that no *ex parte* presentations are permitted from the time the Commission adopts a Notice of Proposed Rule Making until the proceeding has been decided and such decision is no longer subject to reconsideration by the Commission or review by any court. An *ex parte* presentation is not prohibited if specifically requested by the Commission or staff for the clarification or adduction of evidence or resolution of issues in the proceeding. However, any new written information elicited from such a request or a summary of any new oral information shall be served by the person making the presentation upon the other parties to the proceeding unless the Commission specifically waives this service requirement. Any comment which has not been served on the petitioner constitutes an *ex parte* presentation and shall not be considered in the proceeding. Any reply comment which has not been served on the person(s) who filed the comment, to which the reply is directed, constitutes an *ex parte* presentation and shall not be considered in the proceeding.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

John A. Karousos
Chief, Allocations Branch
Policy and Rules Division
Mass Media Bureau

APPENDIX

1. Pursuant to authority found in Sections 4(i), 5(c)(1), 303(g) and (r) and 307(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and Sections 0.61, 0.204(b) and 0.283 of the Commission's Rules, IT IS PROPOSED TO AMEND the Television Table of Allotments, Section 73.606(b) of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, as set forth in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* to which this Appendix is attached.

2. *Showings Required.* Comments are invited on the proposal(s) discussed in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* to which this Appendix is attached. Proponent(s) will be expected to answer whatever questions are presented in initial comments. The proponent of a proposed allotment is also expected to file comments even if it only resubmits or incorporates by reference its former pleadings. It should also restate its present intention to apply for the channel if it is allotted and, if authorized, to build a station promptly. Failure to file may lead to denial of the request.

3. *Cut-off Procedures.* The following procedures will govern the consideration of filings in this proceeding.

(a) Counterproposals advanced in this proceeding itself will be considered if advanced in initial comments, so that parties may comment on them in reply comments. They will not be considered if advanced in reply comments. (See Section 1.420(d) of the Commission's Rules.)

(b) With respect to petitions for rule making which conflict with the proposal(s) in this *Notice*, they will be considered as comments in the proceeding, and Public Notice to this effect will be given as long as they are filed before the date for filing initial comments herein. If they are filed later than that, they will not be considered in connection with the decision in this docket.

(c) The filing of a counterproposal may lead the Commission to allot a different channel than was requested for any of the communities involved.

4. *Comments and Reply Comments; Service.* Pursuant to applicable procedures set out in Sections 1.415 and 1.420 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, interested parties may file comments and reply comments on or before the dates set forth in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* to which this Appendix is attached. All submissions by parties to this proceeding or by persons acting on behalf of such parties must be made in written comments, reply comments, or other appropriate pleadings. Comments shall be served on the petitioner by the person filing the comments. Reply comments shall be served on the person(s) who filed comments to which the reply is directed. Such comments and reply comments shall be accompanied by a certificate of service. (See Section 1.420(a), (b) and (c) of the Commission's Rules.) Comments should be filed with the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554.

5. *Number of Copies.* In accordance with the provisions of Section 1.420 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, an original and four copies of all comments, reply comments, pleadings, briefs, or other documents shall be furnished the Commission.

6. *Public Inspection of Filings.* All filings made in this proceeding will be available for examination by interested parties during regular business hours in the Commission's Public Reference Room at its headquarters, 1919 M Street N.W., Washington, D.C.